Leicester, Mass. Sept. 30. '61.

Dear Mr. Webb, On Friday last, being in Boston, I rec'd. there (Sept. 27.) a little parcel from New York (by the weekly Standard bundle just arriving,) which proved to contain the copy of John Brown's Life, which you kindly sent to me by Dr. Cheever, - which I ought to have had about the middle of August (!) - but which, owing to some gross neglect somewhere, had been kept from me all that right time! Was it not quite too bad? I had wondered, again & again & again, at its non-appearance. But I did not suspect that Dr. Cheever, or any one else, was detaining it from me all that time. I brot. it home with me that evening, & have spent every moment of time since, which I could get from other & necessary duties, in very carefully perusing it. I have not yet read every word & line, but have thoroughly read about one-half (somewhat more) & glanced over the rest. I am altogether pleased with it; as a narrative it is very clear, & well put together; - the style, neither dry on the one hand nor stilted & extreme on the other, is exceedingly appropriate to the subject and the hero. A constantly-growing interest in John Brown, - a very clear perception of his character, mind, & purpose, - must accompany any Reader who candidly & carefully reads it. I feel we have now a Life of John Brown worthy of its Subject.

Phillips took it & examined it carefully for some time. I told him, if he wd agree to write a notice of it, for the Standard, he should have the first reading of my copy. He declined undertaking that. He wished the portrait had had the beard; — not that he specially likes beards (he never wears one himself) but that that seems to him the aspect of the hero of Harper's Ferry. Still, we wish to see his face as it appeared the most of his mature life, — and while he was working out his great plan; — at least, so I think. I prefer this face; and so does Garrison. But I think very much of W. P.'s judgment in the case. He warmly admires, sympathizes with, and loved John Brown, and by a sort of intuition knows the best thing to be said, or done, concerning him, to touch the popular feeling. — I look now eagerly for the vessel's arrival, which will bring the 164 copies. You did not give her name, but I shall keep watch. You say the charge will be for 160 copies; — in that case, I shall give, in your name & Miss Estlin's (unless you forbid) a copy to Mrs. Child — one to Redpath — one to W. Phillips, — and the other, perhaps, to Garrison. The additional charge you make for the photograph is very slight indeed; and cannot, I think, compensate you. — The typography & whole style & appearance

* My thanks to all the three, who have united in sending me this precious copy.

of the volume is very neat, & in very good taste. But what to say of its contents! Oh, what a terrible condemnation is therein brought, substantiated, proved, clinched, against this wicked (and it would now almost seem God-forsaken) land! To what evil, base, wicked counsellors we have listened! What a vile, pro-slavery religion has had sway over the whole land! What a system was that, which so stirred & excited against it such men as the noble John Brown & his company; and which, on the other hand, could have prompted to such infernal cruelties as were practised against him and them. Alas! it is a sad story. But those martyrdoms & sufferings were not in vain. They have rocked the land to its inmost heart — and, dark as the prospect is to-day — darker than at any time since this war broke out, — I am yet sure that Slavery's hateful existence is doomed to perish, & that at an early day. — I shall ever prize this little book. What a teacher and impulse it is! Thanks to her who projected it, to both of you who have so zealously, generously, & ably completed it.* —

I have time, now, for no more. For, in a short time, I set out for New York, taking my younger son with me — now a tall lad of nearly 17 — to see his brother Edward, prior to his

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Sailing, as Paymaster in a Government vessel, upon Government service, - probably to aid in the blockade of the Southern ports! I have told you nothing of this before, I believe. 'Twas not a welcom subject to Mr. May nor to me. We feel heavy-hearted about E.'s going; and yet we could not put a prohibition in his way. Indeed, he is nearly 24 yrs and must judge & decide for himself. He fully knows our objections; but, having tried in vain for occupation elsewhere, & being very heartily ~~engaged~~ interested in the struggle of the Government & Country, & wishing to help in it, he was bent upon applying for the situation, to which at length he has been appointed - that of Assistant Paymaster in the ~~Steam Gunboats~~ Navy, and, the other day, he was assigned to the Paymaster's office on board the new Steam Gun Boat, of 600 Tons the Unadilla; 95 men. He is, himself, greatly pleased with the place; and we are assured that he is very fortunate in getting it. But we do not feel so, While we are glad for the testimony afforded as to his qualifications, & glad that he is not disappointed, as he would have been, sorely, to have lost this place. So we are in a conflict of feeling.

I have no time to lament, here, over the shameful policy of the President and Administration, in censuring Gen. Fremont (as was virtually done) & modifying his Proclamation as to freeing the Slaves of Rebels. 'Tis a terrible blow to the Northern feeling & interest in the war. -

MS. 6.1.1.9.VS LL

I now proceed to give you a List of the Contents of the Box:

Bound Volumes:

Autobiography of a Fugitive Slave	8 copies
Peter Still's Narrative	8 "
Impending Crisis of the South	10 "
Redpath's Life of John Brown	8 "
Cheever's Scriptures on the Guilt of Slavery	8 "
Olmsted's Seaboard Slave States	
Writings of Wm. Lloyd Garrison	12 "
United States Constitution. Comp^d. by W. Phillips	12 "
Facts for Baptist Churches	5 "
Legion of Liberty	10 "
Colored Patriots of the Am^n. Revolution	6 "
Life of Isaac T. Hopper	8 "
North and South -	8 "
Anti Slavery Record	12 "
Account of Alton Riots	10 "
Pafsmore Williamson Case	9 "

Pamphlets:

Am^n. A. S. Society's Report for 1857 & 1858	12 "
Do. Letter to L. Kofsuth	10 "
Do. Decade Meeting	10 "
Massachusetts Disunion Convention	10 "
Am^n Churches Bulwarks of Am^n. Slavery J. G. Birney	12 "
Wesley & Benezet on Am^n. Slavery	10 "
American Slavery as It is . . .	6 "
Castner Hanway Case	10 "
	80

	Pamphlets, brot. forward,	80	copies
Mrs. Child's	Anti-Slavery Catechisms (not all labelled)	30	"
Do.	Evils & Cure of Slavery, (do. do.)	30	"
Do.	Authentic Anecdotes (do. do.)	30	"
Greeley's	History of the Extension of Slavery	10	"
Immediate	Emancipation, by Chas. Stewart, (not all labelled)	30	"
Judge Jay's	Letter on the Am. Tract Soc'y	10	"
	Southern Platform	8	"
	Cheever's New York Address	8	"
	Whittier's Sabbath Scene, Illustrated	12	"

Books in Paper Covers:

Stebbins	on the Am. Colonization Soc'y	8	"
Strong's	Sketch of the Slave Laws	12	"
	Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin	10	"

Also: Sundry recent Tracts of the American Anti-Slavery Society.

N. B. If, in opening the Box, you find any book or considerable pamphlet, not enumerated on my list, I will thank you to make a note of the fact and communicate the same to me; as otherwise I shall be personally a loser in this matter, buying all the books at trade prices, and charging the Am. Soc'y., of course no more than I pay. Small tracts & pamphlets you need not consider included in above request. —

I am glad to tell you, that, at the late National Fast, an unusual number of Ministers, of nearly every denomination, advocated strongly and unqualifiedly the Duty & the Necessity of Emancipation, - as the Result of this war, "without which it would be labour, wealth, "and life thrown away,

I enclose a request from Oliver Johnson, repeating the Advocate.

What can be done to hold up the Advocate? We are all greatly grieved at the prospect of losing it - Even Mrs. Chapman, who has not always preferred it to some other agencies, now expresses a strong wish to have it upheld. But I must not write another word. More at another time.

Ever truly Yours
Sam'l May Jr.

I must add that I have requested the Clerk, in the Standard Office, to return to his old method of mailing & addressing papers, - and to send on the missing numbers to you, & to Waterford. - Is Mr Jack compelled to stop the Liberator from poverty? Can we help him to it

MS.B.L.G.v.8.P.77